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2012-12

UAPI Gains 300th Partner

Center for Homeland Defense and Security

Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California

<http://hdl.handle.net/10945/51242>



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UAPI Gains 300th Partner

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This has been a year of milestones for the University and Agency Partnership Initiative (UAPI) at the Center for Homeland Defense and Security.

The latest achievement came in November as UAPI gained its 300th educational partner – Northeastern University – since its establishment in 2006. UAPI's mission is to export CHDS' leading-edge homeland security curriculum, free of charge, to schools and universities across the United States that offer homeland security-related degrees. Earlier this year, UAPI's members-only website reached more than 1,000 individual educators who participate in the partnership.

"Homeland security programs are refining and maturing their educational content while developing assessment tools to align content with the demands of the professional field and job market," UAPI Director Steve Recca observed. "The sheer number of UAPI partners and the fact they find value in CHDS and connecting with each other is significant."

Even as homeland security programs have proliferated during the past 11 years, educational programs in the field continue to grow. The Initiative has gained 100 new institutional partners in 2012 alone.

Long-standing academic partners say UAPI helps keeps curricula fresh and up-to-date.

"CHDS is clearly the gold standard for identifying key issues to be included in homeland security and homeland defense curriculum," said Dave McIntyre, vice president for academic affairs at the National Graduate School and University, a longtime partner. "UAPI provides the best mechanisms in the United States to access and share those educational lessons."

Historically, UAPI partners have been schools in the early phase of establishing a homeland security educational program. More recently, though, more established schools such as the University of Maryland's Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) consortium have come into the fold for the interaction with other institutions.

"A big part of what we are is being the homeland security network," Recca said. "We are the place to plug in. Established entities with significant resources find value with us. We are another connection point and another feedback mechanism."

Growth in the field may also be attributed to the evolving nature of homeland security as a discipline. Programs launched in the early years of the field after 9/11 were largely devoted to terrorism, a stage Recca refers to as Homeland Security 1.0. That evolved into a more all-hazards approach after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, which he calls Homeland Security 2.0.

"Super Storm Sandy showed that with the emergency response and preparedness piece, we have the academic focus about right. Disaster management will continue to be an important growth area for Homeland Security education and research," Recca noted.

Future topics in the field are likely to be what Recca calls "Homeland Security 3.0" that encompasses a range of



emerging issues, such as cyber-security, arctic security and risk management, for example.

"Phase three brings in more esoteric elements of security," Recca noted. "What does climate change mean for homeland security? It's bringing in more distant cousins of homeland security into a larger understanding of how the pieces work together. This is the maturing of the discipline where we start to look at questions we don't know – research that will lead into more insight as to what makes us more secure; research and adding parts that have not been at the table."

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